

WOEC closes board room to public

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for desks, computers and filing cabinets, Seuss said, and since business documents would be in the room overnight, security was also a problem. He felt that locked desks and filing cabinets would not be secure enough. The board generally agreed that COOP use of the room took precedent over public use. The closure was approved on a 4-2 vote, with Directors Don Meiers and Rod McLean casting the "no" votes. Board President Bob Stacklie said that if, in time, it appears the board room is no longer needed for its new use, it will again be made available to the public.

REA plans to do a field audit of WOEC, Seuss informed the board. Possible areas of concern to REA include having two new general managers in two years; allegations that a former employee misused COOP funds; the directive from the Public Utilities Commission to brush the lines; or that the COOP has the highest rates in the state. Seuss characterized REA's contact as "friendly."

The audit will take place January 22, with REA auditors and engineers scrutinizing both "inside" and "outside" operations. Each director is scheduled for a private interview, which is "Standard procedure and nothing to worry about," Seuss added.

The COOP's new office manager, Art Fleming, and new consultant Don Amundson

are now on the job. Amundson has had many years of experience in the power industry, including recent work for the COOP Finance Corp. Part of his job will be to retrain the staff for greater efficiency.

A contingent of Chapman residents attended the November board meeting to protest that the COOP's published minutes do not reflect what actually happened at the previous meeting. The board agreed with them on certain items, but did not move to change the minutes. [Not discussed at the board meeting, is a petition being circulated in the Chapman area to secede from the COOP.]

In other business:

- Seuss told the board that Rex Brown will be working with Don Holsey over the next 2 - 3 years to implement a computer-aided-design (CAD) mapping system for the COOP. He said that the money would come from next year's budget.

- Seuss agreed to send board members information on matters to be discussed at a meeting at least 5 days in advance of that meeting.

- Seuss requested a policy requiring members to inform the COOP of what they want to say 5 days in advance of any meeting they plan to attend, but the board declined to put restrictions on members' spur-of-the-moment attendance or presentation of petitions.

- The board tabled a resolution on employees' retirement

accounts because the explanation wasn't clear.

- Ragsdale asked, on behalf of the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce, if the COOP could store, put up and remove the street Christmas decorations. General Foreman Lee DuVall said the COOP has no room to store the decorations, but would put them up. When asked if the crew would volunteer their time to do so, DuVall said he would ask, but he didn't think so.

- Concern was expressed by Stacklie that a lot of the 700 chicken halves purchased by the COOP for the annual meeting, were both unconsumed and unaccounted for.



Art Fleming

Art Fleming picked as new WOEC office manager

Art Fleming has been appointed office manager at West Oregon Electric Cooperative, a position that has been vacant for several months.

Fleming comes here from the Bremerton, Wash., Naval Yard, where he held the civilian position of contract specialist.

He holds a BS degree in management from the University of Maryland School of Business Administration, and a Masters degree in business administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

This isn't Fleming's first exposure to WOEC, however, as his father is the president of Ruralite magazine, in Forest Grove.

Initially, Fleming is working as part of a three person team along with General Manager David Seuss and Don Amundson, a consultant. The team is analyzing WOEC administration with a view toward improving efficiency, economy and communications. Their recommendations will be reviewed by the co-op's board of directors.

Fleming and the office staff will then be responsible for the administration of the re-

vised policies and systems.

A single man, Fleming has moved to Vernonia.

"Gift" employee helps Police with clerical duties, parking citations

The two hour parking restriction on Bridge Street, in Vernonia's commercial district, has been ignored as long as it's been in existence, but that could become expensive now.

Floyd Ragner, who has been working part-time in the Vernonia Police Department for nearly four months, is now writing citations for overtime parking.

Ragner was Columbia County supervisor for Green Thumb, a U.S. Department of Agriculture program, until his position was eliminated. Now he is a police service aide and reserve officer at the local police department.

In a good deal for local taxpayers, Green Thumb still pays Ragner's salary; it's not coming from the city's property tax coffers.

In addition to ticketing ille-

gally parked cars, Ragner does clerical work and dispatching.

In the Service

Scott Buchholz

Airman Scott R. Buchholz has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

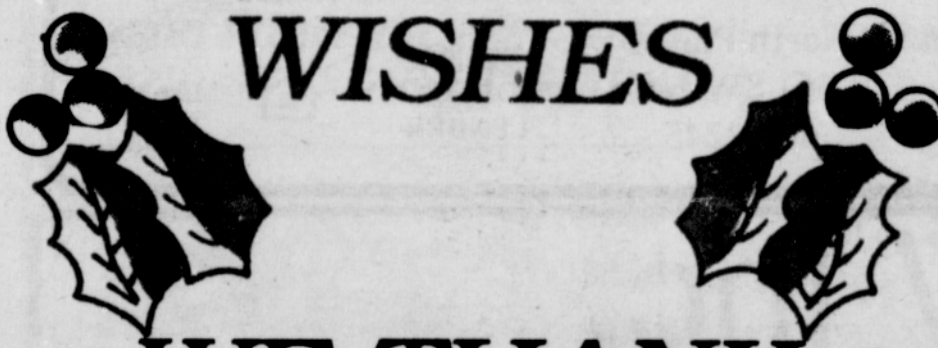
During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relations.

In addition, he earned credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the son of Robert E and Doris M. Buchholz of Vernonia and is a 1990 graduate of Vernonia High School.

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